

**IN THE ABSTRACT:**

Please delete the Abstract at page 17 in its entirety and substitute the following new Abstract. (An Abstract showing the changes using brackets and underlining is included as an attachment at the end of this Preliminary Amendment.)

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**Abstract**

A1 The invention refers to a gasket (1), the gasket having at least one metal layer (3) and at least one metal ring (5) welded thereto, the metal layer (3) having at least one through-hole (4) and the metal ring (5) being arranged around the through-hole (4). The metal layer (3) and the metal ring (5) are welded to each other along a welding bead (7) which keeps the metal layer (3) and the metal ring (5) in a spaced apart relationship to one another. The gasket (1) has welding joints which are stable for a long time, and thus a high sealing capacity.

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